

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L JERUSALEM 1933

EXDIS

FOR NEA ASSISTANT SECRETARY SAUNDERS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP, IS, JO, XF
SUBJ: PROCEDURES FOR HIGH LEVEL VISITS IN JERUSALEM

1. IN WAKE OF RECENT VICE PRESIDENTIAL VISIT IT IS USEFUL
TO TAKE ANOTHER LOOK AT QUESTION OF FUTURE CABINET-LEVEL
VISITS TO JERUSALEM.

2. PRIOR TO MONDALE'S VISIT OUR CONSISTENT PRACTICE REGARDING
CABINET-LEVEL OFFICERS HAD BEEN, AS NOTED IN JERUSALEM 1622,
"TO REFRAIN FROM VISITING EAST JERUSALEM/WEST BANK UNDER
OFFICIAL ISRAELI SPONSORSHIP (WITH I.E. HIGH RANKING ISRAELI
OFFICIALS." FURTHER, WE HAD REFRAINED FROM FORMAL CONTACT
WITH MAYOR KOLLEK DURING SUCH HIGH-LEVEL VISITS--KOLLEK WAS
NOT RECEIVED BY HIGH-LEVEL VISITORS NOR WERE CALLS MADE ON
HIM AT CITY HALL.

3. AS PRESSURE FROM MAYOR KOLLEK AND ISRAELI OFFICIALS
BUILT UP DURING PREPARATIONS FOR MONDALE VISIT, WE SUGGESTED
THAT MONDALE VISIT THE WESTERN WALL IN COMPANY OF DR. MAZAR,
THE ISRAELI PROFESSOR IN CHARGE OF EXCAVATIONS NEAR THE WALL.
EVENTUALLY PUBLIC PRESSURE BY KOLLEK FORCED GOI, IN FORM OF
PERSONAL PLEA BY PRIME MINISTER BEGIN, TO APPEAL FOR VICE
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PRESIDENT TO AGREE TO VISIT WALL WITH KOLLEK. GIVEN SPECIAL
SIGNIFICANCE OF MONDALE VISIT COMMEMORATING ISRAEL'S 30TH
ANNIVERSARY, WE BELIEVE THAT OUR SUBSEQUENT CONCESSION TO HAVE
KOLLEK ACCOMPANY MONDALE SHOULD CONTINUE TO BE CAST AS MUCH
AS POSSIBLE AS AN EXCEPTION WITHOUT ANY SIGNIFICANCE REGARDING
OUR POLICY TOWARDS THE STATUS OF JERUSALEM. ACCOMPANYING
STATEMENT MADE BY VICE PRESIDENT NOTING "PRIVATE" NATURE OF

HIS VISIT TO WALL AS WELL AS HIS DISCLAIMER THAT ANY CHANGE IN US POLICY INVOLVED BOTH HELPED TO TAKE MUCH OF THE STING OUT OF ARAB UNHAPPINESS. (AS HISTORICAL FOOTNOTE, IT IS WORTH RECALLING THAT SADAT DURING HIS NOVEMBER VISIT TO JERUSALEM, ALTHOUGH ACCOMPANIED BY KOLLEK IN HIS VISIT TO THE OLD CITY, DID NOT GO TO THE WALL.)

4. WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT OUR SHORT-TERM AND LONG-TERM INTERESTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST, PRIOR TO THE NEGOTIATION OF A MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT, ARE BEST SERVED BY NOT RECOGNIZING ISRAELI CONQUESTS OF 1967 AND ISRAELI DE FACTO ANNEXATION OF JERUSALEM. SECRETARY VANCE SAID RECENTLY THAT THE FUTURE OF EAST JERUSALEM SHOULD BE A MATTER OF NEGOTIATION BETWEEN THE PARTIES. THE BEST WAY TO PRESERVE THE ISSUE OF EAST JERUSALEM FOR THOSE EVENTUAL NEGOTIATIONS IS TO REFRAIN FROM DOING ANYTHING THAT COULD BE CONSTRUED AS PRE-JUDGING THE STATUS OF JERUSALEM.

5. NOW THAT MAYOR KOLLEK HAS SUCCEEDED IN ACCOMPANYING A HIGH-LEVEL US OFFICIAL TO THE WALL EVEN IN A PRIVATE CAPACITY, IT WILL CLEARLY BE MORE DIFFICULT TO AVOID HAVING THE MAYOR ACCOMPANY FUTURE VISITS BY HIGH-LEVEL CABINET OFFICIALS TO THE WALL. PRACTICALLY SPEAKING THEREFORE, THE BEST WAY TO AVOID FUTURE KOLLEK ACCOMPANIED VISITS TO THE WALL IS SIMPLY FOR THE VISITOR TO FOREGO SUCH A VISIT. IN THOSE CASES WHERE A VISIT TO THE WALL IS UNAVOIDABLE WE SHOULD RESTATE THE MONDALE
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FORMULA, I.E. PRIVATE VISIT WITH NO CHANGE IN OUR POLICY. IN OTHER WORDS, HOLD THE LINE WHERE WE ARE AND RESIST ANY FURTHER EROSION. IN ANY EVENT, WE SHOULD CONTINUE TO REFUSE TO ALLOW HIGH-LEVEL VISITORS TO CALL ON THE MAYOR IN HIS OFFICE.
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